



United States Department of Agriculture
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Agriculture in Idaho

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Mid-March Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of March showed increases for alfalfa, all barley, malting barley, dry beans, potatoes, cows, steers & heifers, calves, and all milk. Lower prices were received for feed barley and beef cattle.

For the U.S., the Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.0 percent) from February. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs. Lower prices were received for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Mar. 2007-Mar. 2008

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		March 2007	February 2008	March 2008 ^{1/}	March 2007	February 2008	March 2008	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	121.00	153.00	155.00	121.00	138.00	143.00	--
Barley, All	Bu.	3.42	4.22	4.27	3.11	4.39	4.75	55
Feed	Bu.	3.84	5.15	4.65	3.19	4.67	4.41	--
Malting	Bu.	3.27	4.13	4.25	3.09	4.31	4.89	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	22.50	31.60	33.40	25.70	32.20	32.20	51
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	6.45	5.60	6.20	7.93	7.51	7.82	40
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	6.50	6.00	--	11.04	9.86	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	5.70	5.40	--	6.36	6.25	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.91	8.77	9.61	4.75	9.98	11.70	94
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	85.00	81.70	81.60	91.60	89.00	88.70	37
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	47.00	47.40	47.60	47.20	51.40	52.20	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	97.00	91.40	92.40	97.70	94.20	93.80	--
Calves	Cwt.	116.00	108.00	110.00	122.00	120.00	120.00	35
Lambs	Cwt.	87.00	93.00	--	95.50	96.80	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	14.40	17.50	17.80	15.60	19.10	18.30	42 ^{7/}

^{1/} Mid-Month. ^{2/} Average monthly price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. ^{3/} Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. ^{4/} "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined. ^{5/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. ^{6/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. ^{7/} Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	February 2007	March 2007	February 2008		March 2008 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	128	133	145	147	150
Prices Paid	156	159	172	173	176
Ratio ^{1/}	82	84	84	85	85

^{1/} Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

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2008 Idaho Planting Intentions

All wheat planted in Idaho is expected to total 1.46 million acres, up 18 percent from last year. Spring wheat plantings are expected to be 540,000 acres, 15 percent more than last year. Winter wheat seedings, at 900,000 acres, increased 20 percent from the 2007 crop. Durum wheat seedings are expected to total 15,000 acres, unchanged from 2007. Idaho farmers intend to seed 300,000 acres of field corn in 2008, down 3 percent from last year's record high. Barley seedings are expected to total 550,000 acres, down 4 percent from last season's 570,000 acres. Oat seedings are expected to be 80,000 acres, up 14 percent from last year. Dry bean planting intentions decreased 11 percent from last year to 80,000 acres. Dry bean estimates include chickpeas, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. Chickpea planting intentions totaled 28,000 acres, down 33 percent from 2007. All hay harvested, at 1.50 million acres, is unchanged from 2007. Sugarbeet plantings are expected to total 144,000 acres, down 15 percent from last year's 169,000 acres planted and the lowest level since 1982. Lentil acreage is expected to be 35,000 acres, down 8 percent from 2007. Dry edible pea acreage, at 30,000 acres, is expected to be up 20 percent from last year. Austrian winter pea acres are expected to total 4,000 acres, down 33 percent from 2007.

Nationally, producers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Growers intend to plant 14.3 million acres of spring wheat this year, up 8 percent from 2007. Winter wheat seedings totaled 46.8 million acres, up 4 percent from the 2007 crop. Area seeded to durum wheat is expected to total 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from 2007. All wheat planted area is expected to total 63.8 million acres for the 2008 crop, up 6 percent from 2007. Barley growers intend to seed 4.15 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest barley planted acreage on record. Acres seeded to oats are expected to total 3.42 million acres, down 9 percent from last year and the lowest level on record. Producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of all hay in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007. Sugarbeet acreage is expected to total 1.13 million acres, 11 percent lower than 2007. If realized, expected planted acreage will be the lowest since 1985. Area planted to dry beans is expected to total 1.40 million acres, down 8 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2006. Lentil acreage is expected to total 277,000 acres, down 9 percent from 2007. Growers intend to plant 820,000 acres of dry edible peas in 2008, down 3 percent from 2007. Austrian winter pea acreage is expected to be 25,500 acres, down 12 percent from 2007. Acreage actually planted may vary from those indicated as a result of weather, economic conditions, availability of production inputs and the effect of this report itself.

Planted Acreage 2006-2007 & Planting Intentions March 1, 2008 – Idaho & U.S

CROP	PLANTED		PLANTING INTENTIONS	2008/2007
	2006	2007	2008 ^{1/}	
	<i>Thousand Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
IDAHO				
Winter Wheat	750	750	900	120
Spring Wheat	490	470	540	115
Durum Wheat	15	15	15	100
Corn ^{2/}	270	310	300	97
Oats	90	70	80	114
Barley	530	570	550	96
All Hay ^{3/}	1,520	1,500	1,500	100
Sugarbeets	188	169	144	85
Dry Beans ^{4/}	105	90	80	89
Lentils	50	38	35	92
Dry Edible Peas	30	25	30	120
Austrian Winter Peas	9	6	4	67
UNITED STATES				
Winter Wheat	40,575	44,987	46,840	104
Spring Wheat	14,899	13,297	14,333	108
Durum Wheat	1,870	2,149	2,630	122
Corn ^{2/}	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
Oats	4,168	3,760	3,420	91
Barley	3,452	4,020	4,147	103
All Hay ^{3/}	60,927	61,625	60,583	98
Sugarbeets	1,366.2	1,269.8	1,131.8	89
Dry Beans ^{4/}	1,629.8	1,526.9	1,398.5	92
Lentils	429	303	277	91
Dry Edible Peas	925.5	847.5	820.0	97
Austrian Winter Peas	46.0	29.0	25.5	88

1/ Intended plantings in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers. 2/ Excludes sweet corn. 3/ Area harvested 2006-07, intended for harvest 2008. 4/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

March 1 Grain Stocks

Idaho's March 1, 2008 stocks of all wheat stored in all positions totaled 19.3 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year's 24.7 million bushels. On-farm storage was estimated at 4.00 million bushels, down 53 percent from last year's 8.50 million bushels. Off-farm stocks, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 15.3 million bushels, down 6 percent from March 1, 2007. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 21.5 million bushels, down 32 percent from a year ago. On-farm storage was estimated at 5.00 million bushels, down 50 percent from a year ago. Off-farm storage was estimated at 16.5 million bushels, down 23 percent from last year's 21.5 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions March 1, 2008 totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 92 million bushels, down 52 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 618 million bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 105 million bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 2007. On-farm stocks are estimated at 28.3 million bushels, 26 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 76.5 million bushels, are 3 percent below March 2007. Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2008, totaled 79.0 million bushels, 11 percent above the stocks on hand March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks on hand, 31.0 million bushels are stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 48.0 million bushels, up 29 percent from the previous year. Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008, totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 3.78 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.08 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago.

Idaho Honey Production Decreased 10 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 3.77 million pounds, a 10 percent decrease from 2006. Honey producing colonies are estimated at 92,000 colonies, down 3,000 colonies from last year. Yield per colony averaged 41 pounds, down 3 pounds from 2006. Producer honey stocks were 1.85 million pounds on December 15, 2007, a decrease of 29 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is \$1.08, up 8 cents from a year ago.

U.S. honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.44 million colonies producing honey in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006.

Yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 6 percent from the 64.7 pounds in 2006. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 52.5 million pounds on December 15, 2007, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

The 2007 all honey price was 103.2 cents, down slightly from 103.6 cents in 2006. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2006 crop reflect honey sold in 2006 and 2007.

Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2006-2007

Color Class	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>		<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>		<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>	
Water White, Extra White, White	97.0	96.6	175.6	167.7	99.9	98.4
Extra Light Amber	94.0	95.1	176.0	178.5	104.0	102.3
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	86.7	92.7	201.7	207.5	106.3	109.1
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	114.0	135.6	231.9	289.3	163.2	174.4
All Honey	94.0	95.6	192.0	196.1	103.6	103.2

Idaho Farm Numbers Down From 2006

The number of farms and ranches in Idaho in 2007, totaled 24,500, down 500 operations from 2006. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 11.7 million acres, was down 100,000 acres from 2006. The average size of farm was 478 acres in 2007.

The number of farms in the United States in 2007 is estimated at 2.08 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2006. Total land in farms, at 930.9 million acres, decreased 1.5 million acres, or 0.16 percent, from 2006. The average farm size was 449 acres during 2007, an increase of three acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

USDA'S definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 census. Since 1974, minor modifications to a farm definition have been made.

U.S. Dairy Products February 2008 Highlights

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 784 million pounds, 4.8 percent above February 2007 but 3.5 percent below January 2008.

Italian type cheese production totaled 335 million pounds, 4.8 percent above February 2007 but 4.8 percent below January 2008.

American type cheese production totaled 319 million pounds, 4.5 percent above February 2007 but 4.4 percent below January 2008.

Butter production was 147 million pounds, 9.4 percent above February 2007 but 13.1 percent below January 2008.

Dry Milk Powders: (comparisons with February 2007)

Nonfat dry milk, human --- 120 million pounds, up 21.9 percent.
Skim milk powders --- 33.8 million pounds, up 206.4 percent.

Whey Products: (comparisons with February 2007)

Dry Whey, total --- 88.0 million pounds, down 2.5 percent.
Lactose, human and animal --- 60.4 million pounds, up 1.2 percent.
Whey protein concentrate, total --- 33.2 million pounds, up 12.8 percent.

Frozen Products: (comparisons with February 2007)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) --- 66.0 million gallons, up 0.7 percent.
Ice cream, Lowfat (total) --- 28.0 million gallons, down 0.4 percent.
Sherbet (hard) --- 4.18 million gallons, up 8.6 percent.
Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 4.05 million gallons, down 2.5 percent.

